



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

# RTBU MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Newman Devious Job Destruction**

Last year the Newman Government spin doctors were out in force as jobs that have been Queenslanders for over a hundred years were exported to India. (See media link below)

Now we discover that not only has this Government contracted the manufacture of the South East train units to be built overseas for the first time, they accepted a design that will almost inevitably eventually remove another 600 jobs from Brisbane.

Whilst claiming to save money, history has shown that rail Rollingstock imported from Asia has often had a much shorter life and lesser quality than Australian manufactured, providing short term gain for long term losses.

**Owen Doogan, QLD State Secretary of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU)**, said *“against the wishes of Queensland Rail, the Government has accepted a new design of trains that reduces the service to Queenslanders, reduces operational flexibility and has significant threat to Queensland jobs”*.

Currently the South East local train service is made up of 3 car units, which often operate in six car modes. This is pretty standard practise for this type of train. It means they can run 3 car sets if a fault in one of the units rather than cancelling trains or when demand does not require a full 6 car set. This provides enormous efficiency in the operation of the service.

**Owen Doogan said** *“Translink has had the wonderful idea of building overseas 6 car fixed units, with no central area for Train Guards to be located which could mean over 600 South East Queensland jobs eventually destroyed.”*

**He added**, *“with those jobs would go both the service to customers, especially those requiring assistance and the security passengers have traditionally had by having a Traincrew Guard near by.”*

Mr Doogan stated that *“whilst this Government spins in their media release about maintenance jobs being created, maintenance jobs were always Queensland jobs. Nothing new. However, until the Newman Government turned up these rail unit were normally built in either Queensland or at least somewhere in Australia”*.

Owen Doogan said *“overseas manufacture means both direct and indirect increased unemployment for Queenslanders and Australians generally”*.

*“Newman says he cares about jobs but boasts of maintenance jobs, which were always Australian, whilst disguising his attempt to wipe out 600 Queensland rail direct jobs and many hundreds more indirect manufacturing jobs”*.

*If Newman wants to talk about jobs, why not the 20,000 he has already ditched from the public sector and the sneaky job destruction currently underway through the inflexible overseas manufacture of rail units”*.

*“How can Queenslanders trust this man to run our State”?*

Spin Doctor Government Media Statements on overseas manufacture. (read at: <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2014/1/29/new-trains-for-half-the-price> )